



Vietnam veteran to share story

By Maj. Don Langley
Public Affairs

Nationally known motivational speaker and author Dave Roever is scheduled to speak at the 509th Bomb Wing T-9 hangar Thursday.

The presentation will follow a short break after the 509th Bomb Wing Commander's Call by Col. Chris Miller.



Roever

He will also speak to teens at 6 p.m. at the community center.

Mr. Roever served as a river boat gunner in an elite unit in Vietnam, where he was burned beyond recognition in 1969 after a phosphorous grenade exploded in his hand. He survived what would have been fatal injuries in most cases, and underwent 15 major surgeries over the next 14 months.

Since 1976, Mr. Roever has shared the

See **ROEVER**, Page 8

News in Brief

Commander's call set

Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, hosts a commander's call for all wing personnel 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the T-9 facility. For more details, call 687-1392.

New promotees announced

The December in-system supplemental staff sergeant and chief master sergeant promotion results were announced Monday.

The senior airmen who were selected for promotion are **Chandler Bearup**, 509th Security Forces Squadron; **Christopher Carpenter**, 509th Communications Squadron; **Jered Jones**, 509th SFS; **Samantha Lamar**, 509th SFS; and **Damien Nee-dom**, 509th SFS.

The senior master sergeant selected for promotion is **Mark Clark**, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Staff announces last issue

The *Whiteman Spirit* staff wants its readers to know the Dec. 17 paper is the last issue for 2004. The first issue in 2005 will be published Jan. 7.

Anyone who wishes to submit information for the Dec. 17 issue, must submit it by noon today. For more details, call the *Whiteman Spirit* staff at 687-6133 or e-mail white-man.spirit@whiteman.af.mil.

New immunization hours set

Effective Dec. 20, the 509th Medical Group Immunization Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. The clinic is closed for lunch noon-1 p.m. and on weekends. For more details, call the clinic at 687-4303.

Wanted: tax center volunteers

Turn to Page 3 for the full story.



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Lighting up the season

Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, speaks to wing members after lighting the wing Christmas tree near the shoppette Monday. The tree lighting marked the wing's official start of the holiday season. About 150 Whiteman members attended the event. Chaplain (Maj.) Shane Gaster, 509th BW, led a prayer before the lighting, and entertainment was provided by the Whiteman Combined Chapel Choir.

Security follows tragedy

Post 9/11 option created to protect AF civilians

By 1st Lt. Ed Gulick

Public Affairs

An Air Force weakness became clear in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001.

Before that day, most Air Force civilian employee's next-of-kin information was only kept by immediate supervisors. Civilians were among those injured or killed in the attack on the Pentagon and it posed great challenges for the military in notifying family members.

In response, the Air Force Personnel Center took an existing program and opened it for civilian employee use. The program, the Emergency Data System for Next-Of-Kin, was made available on a voluntary basis.

"We want to be able to do something we couldn't do immediately after Sept. 11 — ensure we provide family members accurate and timely information about civilian Air Force people involved in an attack or an incident," said Thomas Perry, chief of

the casualty division at AFPC.

The problem is that not many civilian employees have registered in the system.

According to AFPC officials, 35 percent of Air Force civilian employees have registered since the program's inception in May 2003. Individual base percentages range from 20-80 percent. Whiteman's rate is 35 percent.

At Whiteman, the 509th Bomb Wing civilian personnel office promotes registration through its Web site, by briefing it at commanders' calls and during supervisor training.

"Certainly since 9/11 civilians should be aware they could be involved in disasters — natural or otherwise," said Sharon Blindauer, 509th BW civilian personnel office chief. "It would be critical for supervisors or other personnel to know where and how to contact their families or next-of-kin."

Mrs. Blindauer said it took her five minutes to register. She suggests employees have addresses, phone numbers and other contact information for their next-of-kin ready when they begin to register.

Civilian employees can register in EMDS at <https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/emds/default.htm>. For more information, call the civilian personnel office at 687-6485.



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Tech. Sgt. Sherry Duggan and Sue Schlobohm, 509th Maintenance Group, decorate a Christmas tree.

Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Miller

509th Bomb Wing Commander

SANTA'S LIST. I usually keep my personal wish list "close hold," but there are some things I'd like this year that I'm willing to talk about. I wish for mission success and safe return for our deployed Airmen. I wish for safe holiday celebrations — not only our squadron parties, but all the many gatherings that happen over the holidays. I wish for safe travel for all who leave Whiteman or come here to visit.

Last but not least, I wish for a time of renewal for each member of the Whiteman family — active, reserve, guard, civilian, families and friends. That's a big list but it only takes a little effort from each one of us to stay safe and go the extra distance to make the season merry. Thanks for all the things you do to take care of each other!

PACKING UP. Whiteman warriors continue to support missions worldwide. Last

week's paper had some tips on preparing for deployment. Even if you're not deploying soon, ask about the process now — it's never too early to be prepared!

FIT TO FIGHT. We've had about a year with the Air Force's new fitness standards — and they're working — we're making great progress toward increasing fitness across the board as our Chief of Staff intended! If you haven't tested yet, it's time...and if you have, keep up the good work. The program's not about the test, it's about the workouts that get you there. Our next warrior run will be Dec. 21 ... see you there.

LEARNING FROM OTHERS. Thursday, Mr. Dave Roevers will visit Whiteman. He's a Vietnam veteran who successfully fought to rebuild his life after being severely wounded. He will speak following commander's call on Thursday. Staying for his presentation is optional, but I expect it to be well worth the time. It's a great opportunity to share another person's insights into overcoming personal challenges.

Keep focus as holiday distractions approach

By Maj. Tom Kirkham

509th Munitions Squadron Commander

Each year, we look forward to the holiday season — the traditions, the family togetherness, and the season's joy where people go out of their way to help those in need. It's easy to get caught up in the holiday spirit and forget what is most important — taking care of the mission.

Recently, I've noticed an increase in the number accidents or incidents within the 509th Munitions Squadron and in other units across the wing. I understand how one can lose focus during this busy time of year. Many people are preparing for friends and family arriving, planning holiday parties, taking care of that last minute holiday shopping, and the list goes on. However, we can't afford to lose sight of the "big picture" — and we must do so by maintaining mission focus. We must do everything we can to keep our people and equipment safe, secure, and ready for war.

It goes without saying that safety must be at the forefront of everything we do. The quickest way to put a damper on the holiday spirit is an injury or death due to a lack of safety. I urge everyone to maintain situational awareness. Pay attention to your

surroundings, and think critically about the action you're about to take and its resulting consequences. Don't get in such a hurry that you're cutting corners to get the task done. Take the time to do the job right and avoid any unnecessary risks. These principles apply both on and off duty.

Security is also of utmost importance. In this time of global terror, military members and equipment — no matter where the location — are potential targets. It's imperative we keep a watchful eye for suspicious activity and report anything unusual or out of the ordinary immediately.

I would be the first to admit that we live and work in a relatively benign environment; however, when it comes to terrorism, we can't afford to let our guard down. We must remain vigilant in protecting our warfighting resources.

As we celebrate this holiday season, let's celebrate our traditions, our commitment to caring and helping others, and being with our families and loved ones. Let's not lose sight of what's most important to us all: ensuring our Air Force remains strong and ready to fight anytime and anywhere. Enjoy this holiday season but continue to stay focused on the mission so that our country and loved ones remain safe and free.



Courtesy photo graphically enhanced

Maj. Tom Kirkham, 509th Munitions Squadron commander, talks with Airmen 1st Class Nicholas Grimm and Kristen Allen, and Staff Sgt. William Selement, 509th MUNS. During the holidays it can be easy to lose focus, Major Kirkham said.

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The deadline for article submissions to the *Whiteman Spirit* is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.AF.mil or write to us at:

509th BW/PA, 509 Spirit Blvd. Ste. 111
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Fitness center raises bar on quality



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Airman 1st Class Michael Eckington, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, uses a weight machine in the fitness center's east gym. The weight machines are temporarily housed inside the gym until the new equipment room is completed.

By 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen
Public Affairs

Fitness center renovations continue and base members will soon see many improvements.

Since May, the fitness center has been under construction. By Jan. 1, the parent and child, and spinning rooms will reopen with new climate controlled features, fans, ceilings and freshly painted walls.

Employees will move to the newly expanded front counter and administrative area — one of the more noticeable changes.

First Lt. Darren Reid, 509th Services Squadron, said the added storage space at the front desk will help employees maintain and distribute gym equipment.

"The administration area expansion will allow fitness center staff to provide better customer service to the wing," he said.

Greg Hauser, 509th SVS fitness center director, agreed.

"The biggest benefit to the customer will be the ability to provide them a more professional atmosphere," Mr. Hauser said.

New restrooms are being built across from the men's locker room. These will be available when both locker rooms are closed in the morning for cleaning. Showers will be remodeled and new vanity space will be added in the women's locker room.

The fitness center upgrades are expected to be finished by April, but not every change involves major construction. Patrons may have noticed some efforts to use more floor space in the facility. The area in front of the racquetball courts was cleared to allow more room for stretching and calisthenic exercises. In addition, free weights in the weight room were consolidated and are now organized by muscle groups for a more streamlined workout.

The gym has received new cardio equipment throughout the last six months, including treadmills, elliptical machines and stationary bikes. Senior Airman Simon Dimant, 509th SVS, uses these machines five times a week.

"The new cardio equipment not only helps me break faster times, but the new material on the treadmills in conjunction with the fitness center's attention to maintenance ensures less recovery time physically as well as a better workout overall," Airman Dimant said.

Some of the gym's changes resulted from suggestions left on the comment cards located near the administrative area.

Customers are encouraged to express their suggestions or concerns through the comment cards. Patrons who leave their contact information will be called or e-mailed back, and responses are tracked for common trends.

"We respond to every customer," Lieutenant Reid said. For more information about fitness center upgrades, call 687-5496.

Tax center volunteers needed

Tax season begins Jan. 15 and ends April 15 every year. As the 2004 income tax season approaches, preparations are under way for the Internal Revenue Service's annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance training seminar for tax advisors.

The Whiteman Tax Center is looking for volunteers to serve as unit tax advisors or to assist with the daily administrative tasks at the tax center.

The VITA program provides a valuable service to the base community.

"Last year, this program saved the Whiteman community \$375,000 in tax preparation and electronic filing fees," said Deana Barylski, Whiteman Tax Center Manager. "The program also boosts military efficiency and reduces lost work time by having a tax office on the installation."

Volunteer tax advisors are the backbone of the tax assistance program, she

said. People must be available Jan. 31 to April 15 to assist unit members and volunteer at least four hours weekly at the tax center. Each advisor must also successfully complete the final course exam.

Mrs. Barylski said people are required to attend the four-day basic tax preparation seminar conducted by the IRS. This seminar takes place Jan. 18-21 at Bldg. 6 and covers basic tax filing issues as well as the Taxwise software.

People who are interested in volunteering must complete an application and turn it in to the legal office by Dec. 23. The legal office and first sergeants have the form to fill out.

Volunteers will be contacted in January with more details about the VITA program. For more details, call Mrs. Barylski at 687-3668 or 687-6809.



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Boiling over

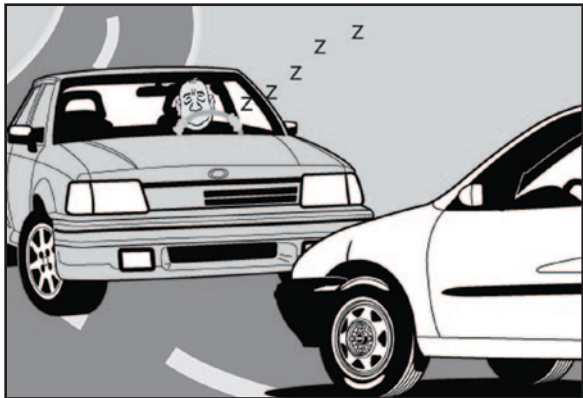
Darrell Starcher, a Haggard Hauling and Rigging Company employee, helps secure a 65,000-pound water tube boiler Monday near the base steam plant. The boiler was the third delivered to the base as part of a \$4.3 million project that will install a new control system for the plant, new feed water and condensate pumps, and a new electrical system to protect new controls from a power surge. The project, which is scheduled to be completed by February, is headed by Jerry Forste and J. Rudy of the Army Corps of Engineers. The steam plant's five boilers supply steam to 90 percent of the base's major buildings.



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

Santa sighting

Santa Claus, riding on a 509th Civil Engineer Squadron fire truck waves to Whiteman members and their families following the wing's annual tree lighting ceremony Monday. Santa also met with children in the community center following the ceremony.



Graphic by Melissa Klinkner

Preparation, rest means safer winter roadways

The holidays are here. Two ways Whiteman members can help keep themselves and the roadways safe are getting enough rest and having a road safety kit at all times.

Sleep researchers say that drowsy drivers are as responsible for traffic mishaps — 30 percent of fatal crashes in one study — as are drunken drivers.

At least 14 states currently don’t list drowsiness as a possible cause on accident reports. But for those that do, the statistics are frightening.

For example, in New York sleeplessness was cited as the cause in 82 percent of the cases in which the car ran off the road.

While adequate rest can cut down on vehicle accidents, having an all-purpose road safety kit can also help make roads safer. Here are a few recommended items:

Road safety kit:

- ✓ snow brush with scraper

- ✓ flashlight with batteries
- ✓ blanket
- ✓ mittens, socks and hat
- ✓ jumper cables

Before driving, ask:

- ✓ Is my car equipped for the weather?
- ✓ Can I make this trip later?
- ✓ What is the safest route?
- ✓ Am I prepared for emergencies?

(Courtesy of the 509th Bomb Wing Safety Office)

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1st Sergeant's View

(Editor's note: The 1st Sergeant's View gives Whiteman first sergeants a chance to remind people of correct uniform wear, customs and courtesies and proper military decorum. A different first sergeant will share their view.)

By Master Sgt. Roscoe Vanausdoll

72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron
Additional Duty First Sergeant

"Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst!"

Almost two years ago, while preparing for a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I overheard a young supervisor telling this to his troops.

The NCO was sorting their mobility bags and advising them to pack several items that weren't on the list. Things like an extension cord, rope, a small flashlight and foot powder.

The young supervisor had been in this situation before. He learned the secrets of surviving in a deployed location the hard way, and was determined to ensure his troops had what they needed. He went the extra mile to ensure they were prepared to face the upcoming chal-

lenges.

Now I find myself as an additional duty first sergeant. I try to help people prepare for the worst in this job. I believe most people do a pretty good job of hoping for the best, but many need help in preparing for the worst. I talk with military members about topics like dependent care plans, financial planning, fitness and making sure they always have a wingman. I also talk about vehicle maintenance, working smoke detectors and having a fire evacuation plan, — anything I can think of to prevent someone from learning a lesson the hard way.

As military members, we always hope for the best but prepare for the worst. Look at things like self aid and buddy care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and chemical warfare training — these are all preparing for the worst. We train everyday to deploy people and aircraft in time of war; while at the same time, hoping for peace.

Throughout my career, I've been fortunate to have supervisors looking out for me. They always gave me that talk in the hallway, making sure I was prepared for the worst. As Airmen, lets continue to take on the responsibility of preparing each other for the worst, so we can all enjoy hoping for the best!



Photo by Melissa Klinkner

Master Sgt. Roscoe Vanausdoll, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron additional duty first sergeant, talks with Senior Airman Valerie Deverney about pre-departure planning before holiday trips. Airman Deverney is a 72nd TES member.

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Tax statement schedule for service members now available

ARLINGTON, Va. — As the end of the year approaches, Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced the schedule for distributing 2004 tax statements.

The schedule lists when servicemembers, military retirees and annuitants, and defense civilian employees can access their statements through myPay and when they can anticipate receiving a paper copy in the mail.

Customers can view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Tax statements will be available:

✓ Retired Annual Statements: now online and mailed Dec. 17-29.

✓ Retired 1099R: will go online Monday and mailed Dec. 17-29.

✓ Annuitant Annual Statements: online Monday and mailed Dec. 28-29.

✓ Annuitant 1099R: online Tuesday and mailed Dec. 27- 29.

✓ Reserve W2s: will go online Dec. 27 and mailed Jan. 4-5.

✓ Civilian W2s: will go online Jan. 6 and mailed Jan. 10-14.

✓ Active Duty W2s: online Jan. 14 and mailed Jan. 18-24.

These statements are only by mail:

✓ Special Compensation for Severely Disabled 1099Rs: mailed Dec. 17.

✓ VSI/SSB W2s: mailed Jan. 4-5.

✓ Travel W2s: mailed Jan. 10-11.

✓ Savings Deposit 1099INTs: mailed Jan. 10-11.

“During January, February and March 2004, an average of 1.4 million myPay users viewed their tax statements each month, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online,” said Jim Pitt, director of electronic commerce at DFAS’ military and civilian pay services. “Earlier access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information.”

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Shoplifting — it’s not worth it

By Capt. Diane Weed

Army & Air Force Exchange Service

Shoplifting is a crime that could cost a military member his or her career and a whole lot of money, too.

“Whatever excuses people come up with to justify their actions, the fact remains that none of them are good enough reasons to risk a career over,” said Steve Bass, headquarters, Army & Air Force exchange loss prevention manager.

Military exchanges spend millions of dollars each year to foil shoplifters, including measures to deter and detect thefts, according to Mrs. Bass. As a result, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service apprehends more than 10,000 shoplifters each year, who are then turned over to base security and their units for criminal and Uniform Code of Military Justice action.

On top of those actions, AAFES and other federal retailers, are authorized to collect a \$200 administrative fee on top of the value of the shoplifted items. This fee offsets the expenses AAFES incurs due to shoplifting.

The Civil Recovery Act, which went into effect March 1, 2002, allows the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to collect the flat administrative cost in addition to the value of the shoplifted items from those caught shoplifting in an AAFES store.

Sponsors are also financially responsible for their family members actions, under the terms of the AAFES program. Parents of minors caught shoplifting will be billed for the costs. These administrative charges are separate from any criminal prosecution or military disciplinary action.

“Unfortunately, when individuals steal, they commit a crime against themselves, their family members, other Soldiers and Airmen, and the military community,” said Brig. Gen. Toreaser Steele, AAFES vice commander. “It’s a real shame since they are taking money out of the hands of commanders who use the AAFES dividend to improve their (base’s) quality of life. They seriously reduce the dollars given back from sales of this \$7.3 billion organization, that is dedicated to ensuring the quality of life for all troops everywhere, going where they go and being of value to them everyday.”

ROEVER, continued from Page 1

experience of his injuries and recovery with millions of public school students, offering encouragement and hope in the face of personal tragedies. He returned to Vietnam in 1993, revisiting villages he once patrolled while in the Navy. The visit led him to set up an aid organization to assist children in those areas.

Since the war on terror began, Mr. Roever has traveled extensively, speaking to military units in Europe and the Persian Gulf. Plans are under way for him to visit Iraq and Afghanistan in 2005.

For more details, about Mr. Roever’s visit to Whiteman, call the chapel at 687-3652.

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Whiteman Spirit Award



Jenise Mugler

Military Spouse

Jenise Mugler, spouse of Tech. Sgt. Michael Mugler, 509th Security Forces Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Matthew Erichsen, 509th Bomb Wing vice commander, Nov. 30.

Chief Master Sgt. Vicki Orcutt, 509th BW command chief master sergeant, nominated Mrs. Mugler for this award.

During the October Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection, Mrs. Mugler made 24 dozen cookies for 509th SFS members and augmentees, and the cargo and deployment troops.

“She did this even though her husband is deployed,” said Chief Orcutt. “She truly embraced the family aspect of Whiteman and took care of our Airmen who supported the NORI.

“She embodies what ‘s best about Whiteman — the desire and commitment to take care of each other,” the chief said.

The chief also said since Mrs. Mugler’s husband was deployed, she didn’t have to make any cookies. However, she ended up baking more than any other spouse.

Personally Speaking

Time on station: 5 years, 4 months

Hometown: Garfield, Wash.

Spouse: Tech. Sgt. Michael Mugler, 509th SFS

Children: Serina, 11, Kaitlin, 10, and Jacob, 6.

Hobbies: Spending time with my family, reading, crafting and volunteering at schools.

Goals: My goal is to go back to school and earn a teaching degree.

Best thing about Whiteman: The support and friendships that have grown since we moved here.

Pet Peeves: Those who don’t appreciate their blessings.

What motivates your winning spirit? My winning spirit comes from the enjoyment I get from helping others.

If you could change one thing about Whiteman, what would it be? I would like to see the shoppette and the Whiteman Inn be located closer to the base exchange and commissary.

Submitting a Whiteman Spirit Award

Individuals are nominated from within their units or by customers impressed by the individual making Whiteman a better place to live and work by going far beyond his or her assigned duties to “make it happen.”

If you know someone who has the Whiteman Spirit, send the nomination to the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 509, Suite 111, or e-mail whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil.

The *Whiteman Spirit* wants to feature you.

Do you, or does someone you know, have a story idea you'd like to see in the paper?

Let our staff know about it.

For more information, call 687-6133 or e-mail whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil.

Flight line kitchen offers quick refueling



Senior Airman Holly Junge, 509th Services Squadron, prepares veal parmesan. The Touch and Go hours are 6-8 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for lunch, and 3:30-6 p.m. for dinner weekdays.



Photo graphically enhanced

Capt. Jonathan Eckerman, 325th Bomb Squadron, picks up a meal before a seven-hour training flight. Pilots can order from six different B-2 long-duration flight meals.



Photos by Airman Jason Burton

Senior Airman Asenath Linton, 509th Services Squadron, weighs a bag of vegetables for a B-2 long-duration flight meal. Touch and Go workers use a scale to ensure each bag contains either 6 ounces of fruit, 12 ounces of vegetables, 7 ounces of beef jerky or 12 ounces of trail mix. The six military and 11 contractor members at the inflight kitchen support 509th Bomb Wing flying missions by providing convenient meals to flight line workers and flight meals to pilots. The Touch and Go's location allows flight line workers to eat close to where they work, saving them time.



Senior Airman Ranisha Johnson, 509th Services Squadron, scoops potatoes into a serving tray. Touch and Go members have pioneered the B-2 long-duration flight meal, an Air Combat Command-approved meal that meets the nutritional needs of B-2 pilots during their unique missions. These meals can consist of a sandwich or beef jerky and trail mix, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, a nutrition bar and bottled water.



Ruth Miles serves lunch at the Touch and Go. The inflight kitchen's menu is based on the Air Force worldwide recipe system which uses a 14-day menu. On average, Touch and Go members serve 9,000 hot meals, and 932 ground and flight meals monthly.

Tips help keep homes safe

Each year, an estimated 370 fires involve Christmas trees and 12,500 people are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries related to holiday decorations.

By following some safety basics when decorating, people can avoid having the season marked by serious personal injury or damage to their home.

To help, the safety experts at Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., the National Fire Protection Association and the National Christmas Tree Association offer this checklist to use when decorating.

✔ Check the tree for fresh, green needles. Trees that have dried out over several weeks are easier to ignite. Remember to keep the tree watered at all times.

✔ Make sure the tree stand holds at least one gallon of water. As a general rule, stands should provide one quart of water per inch of stem diameter. The average 6-foot tree has a 4-inch diameter trunk and can consume as much as four quarts or one gallon of water per day.

✔ Clean water is all that's needed to keep the tree fresh. Don't use additives in the water, such as floral preservatives, molasses, sugar, bleach, soft drinks or aspirin.

✔ Keep the tree at least 3 feet from fire-

places, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other sources of heat. Don't place the tree where it blocks an exit.

✔ Use lights and decorations that bear the UL mark. The UL mark means UL engineers have tested samples of the product for potential fire and electric shock hazards. Light strings with UL's green holographic label are for indoor use only; lights with UL's red holographic label are for either indoors or outdoors.

✔ Carefully inspect every electrical decoration before plugging it in. Cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause serious electric shock or start a fire. Replace damaged items with new decorations.

✔ Check light strings to determine the maximum number of strings that may be connected. For push-in bulbs, connect no more than three strings; for screw-in bulbs, connect a maximum of 50 bulbs.

✔ Don't overload extension cords.

✔ Don't hang lights with staples or nails that can damage the cord's wire insulation.

✔ Turn off electrical light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. *(Courtesy of the 509th Bomb Wing Safety Office)*



Photo by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

It's 'chili' in here

Airman Jennifer Phillips, 509th Mission Support Squadron, and 2nd Lt. Robert Friebe, 509th Civil Engineer Squadron, taste chili during the 509th MSS chili fundraiser contest in Bldg. 509 Dec. 3. Airman 1st Class Crystal Stuart and 2nd Lt. Rachel Murphy, 509th MSS, helped serve chili and awarded door prizes.

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Courtesy photo

A two-way star

Gavin Hodges holds the second-place team trophy at the recent Midwest National Championship Football Tournament in Overland Park, Kan. Gavin was the only military dependent from Whiteman to participate in the event. The 9-year-old plays football for the third and fourth grade Knob Noster Panthers team, and was selected for the all-star traveling team, the Sedalia Colts. Teams from Texas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas participated in the tournament. Gavin played running back for offense and outside linebacker for defense. During the tournament, he scored three touchdowns, caught one interception, recovered a fumble, rushed for 105 yards and had several tackles. The Colts earned second place by winning two of three games during the tournament. Gavin is the son of Tech. Sgt. David Hodges, 509th Mission Support Squadron.

Menus

Knob Noster Elementary School

- Monday:** Chicken patty, broccoli, Jell-O and pears
Tuesday: Toasted cheese sandwich, tomato soup, carrot sticks and trail mix
Wednesday: Ham, peas, au gratin potatoes, apricots, and a roll
Thursday: Chicken fajita, salad, spinach, and peaches
Friday: Fish sandwich, green beans, beets and fruit salad

Whiteman Elementary School

- Monday:** Hot dog, potato wedges, cake and fruit
Tuesday: Chicken patty, french fries, cookies and fruit
Wednesday: Pizza, salad, corn and cobbler
Thursday: Hot ham and cheese sandwich, french fries, salad and yogurt
Friday: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, pumpkin cake and a roll



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Over 30, intramural leagues open 2004-2005 season



Photos by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

The Whiteman Intramural and Over 30 Intramural basketball leagues began preseason play Monday. The 509th LRS Over 30 intramural basketball won its preseason opener against the 509th Operations Support Squadron 38-25 Monday at the fitness center. LRS built leads of 20-11 at halftime and 29-19 in the second half before cruising to victory. Left: Capt. Robert Austin, 509th LRS, drives to the basket against Staff Sgt. Michael Miller, 509th OSS. Above: Staff Sgt. Terrence Oglesby, 509th LRS, battles for a loose ball.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Community

Child ID operation begins

The 509th Security Forces Squadron kicks off Operation Child Identification 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday at the base exchange. OCI provides parents and guardians the opportunity to have their children fingerprinted and photographed for free. SFS will add your child's photograph along with fingerprints to a kit that will be given to you for safekeeping. For more details, call Staff Sgt. Kevin Higgs at 687-4482.

Christmas cantata set

A Christmas cantata begins at 6 p.m. Sunday in the base chapel. The combined chapel choir will present Christmas music in classical, traditional, contemporary, and gospel styles along with a holiday skit, the bell choir, praise dancing and more. For more details, call the chapel at 687-3652.

Self-help store hours change

The Family Housing Self-Help store hours will change for the winter months starting Monday. The new hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

Also, housing occupants must disconnect water hoses to prevent freezing and water line damage. For more details, call Maureen Gunter at 687-7171.

Open house set

The 509th Mission Support Squadron Civilian Personnel Flight hosts its second annual holiday open house 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday in Bldg. 509, Suite 104. All Whiteman members are invited. Refreshments will be available.

Tier 2 meeting set

The Whiteman Tier 2 annual elections for the 2005 officer positions begin at 3 p.m. Thursday in the Mission's End pool room. All active WT2 members are encouraged to attend. To nominate yourself or someone else for office, call Tech. Sgt. David Hodges at 687-6391.

Cancer support group to meet

A cancer support group meets at noon Dec. 17 at the family support center. The first meeting will allow base members who are dealing with cancer to meet each other and decide how other meetings will be handled. Refreshments will be provided. To R.S.V.P., call Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole at 687-6125.

Toys for Tots drop-offs set

The Whiteman Company Grade Officer Association is collecting toys for the Toy for Tots program until Dec. 22.

The toys collected will stay on Whiteman and be donated to the Angel Tree program. All toys must be new but not gift wrapped. There are collection boxes in the military personnel flight customer service office, chapel, family support center, deployment center and the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron orderly room. For more details, call 2nd Lt. Rachel Murphy, at 687-6413.

Free credit report available

The Federal Trade Commission works for consumers to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices, as well as provide information to help

consumers spot, stop and avoid them.

To help that cause, free credit reports will be phased in during a nine-month period from west to east across the United States. This program, which began Dec. 1, is scheduled to have free credit reports available to all Americans regardless of where they live Sept. 1, 2005.

For more information, visit <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/credit/freereports.htm> or call Capt. Adam Slaughter in the legal office at 687-6809.

RRRP accepts trees

Base members may recycle live Christmas trees in the yard waste bins at the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Program drop-off center. However, all tree decorations must be removed before disposal. A curbside pick-up service for housing residents disposing of Christmas trees begins Dec. 28. This service takes place Tuesdays and Thursdays through Jan. 10. For more details, call RRRP at 687-6253 or visit https://intranet.whiteman.af.mil/509BW/509MSG/509CES/CEV/rrrp_Resale/rrrp_resale.htm.

Reminder for dorm residents

The 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department recently reported some dormitory occupants are not evacuating when the fire alarm goes off. Dorm residents must follow the proper evacuation route during fire alarms and exercise proper safety when evacuating. For more details, call the 509th CES Fire Department at 687-4507.

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Visit Santa's Workshop

Santa will be in his workshop 1-3 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-noon Saturday. Get a free photo taken with Santa. Call for more details.

Pre-retirement briefing set

A pre-retirement briefing for people retiring from the military begins at 9 a.m. Monday. For more information, call the military personnel flight at 687-1500 or 687-6720.

FSC offers financial refresher

A financial briefing for senior airmen and below not attending the First-Term Airmen Course begins at 1 p.m. Monday. Reservations are required.

WIC representative visits

A Women, Infants and Children representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 660-747-2012.

Pre-deployment briefing set

A mandatory pre-deployment briefing for people who are deploying or going on a temporary duty assignment for more than 30 days begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Spouses are encouraged to attend.



Services Page information was provided by the
509th Services Squadron.....687-4386
*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Sports & Recreation

Stars & Strikes
687-5114

Baker four tournament

The Baker four bowling tournament begins at noon Dec. 19. Participants can enter in the Handicap or Scratch category. Each team will bowl eight games across eight lanes. The cost is \$12 per person or \$48 per team. Sign up by Dec 17. Call for more information.

Holiday school break special

Keep the children busy during the holiday school break. This offer includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental and food. The cost is \$6.50 per child. The program takes place 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 20-30 excluding Dec. 24-25 and week-ends. Call for more information.

Outdoor Recreation
687-5565

Overtime rock climbing

Join outdoor recreation in nighttime rock climbing Dec. 17. Certified climbers can climb 5:30-9 p.m. A certification course for new climbers takes place 6-8 p.m. Call for more details and to sign up for this free event.

Fourth annual polar bear fishing classic

Fish 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at Ike Skelton Park lake. Catch a fish and have it measured. There are two categories, 18 and older, and 17 and younger. Prizes will be awarded. Free coffee and hot chocolate will be available. Call for more details about this free event.

Festival of lights dinner and tour

Take a trip to the Warsaw, Mo., and Long Shoals Marina festival of lights dinner and tour 4:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 18. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 for family of four; bring money for dinner. Call for more details about this event.

Fitness Center
687-5496

Jingle bell jog

Participate in a 5K walk/run beginning at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday. The fitness center will provide a jingle bell to be worn on your shoe during the run. Call the fitness center for more details about this free event. Sponsored in part by Gatorade and GNC* in Warrensburg.

Travel & Leisure

Tickets & Travel
687-5643

Closed Dec. 19-Jan. 4; moving to the skills development center.

Spend holidays in Florida

See two theme parks and a collection of must-see seasonal favorites at one entertainment destination. People can see the Universal Island of Adventure's Grinchmas celebration and then go to Universal Studios to catch the Macy's Holiday Parade. Call for more information.

Food & Fun

Mission's End
687-4422

Pay-per-view basketball

Watch "NBA League Pass" games nightly until Dec. 23. Watch "ESPN Full Court" games nightly until Dec. 22 except for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Dec. 17 and 20. Starting times for televised games vary. Call Mission's End for more details. This is free for club members only.



First Night events begin at the fitness center with opening ceremonies, a lip sync contest and tricycle races. Participants then go to Stars & Strikes for cosmic bowling and pizza.

The next stop is the community center where families participate in the build-a-float contest, watch a magic show and play bingo.

After that, people go to the library for story hour and craft time to make gingerbread houses.

The final destination is Mission's End. There families can enjoy activities designed for all ages, including listening to a DJ, dance contests and a sock hop. Children activities include a smiley face bouncer, candy bar bingo, crafts, video games, board games, bowling for bucks, twister, limbo and more. There will also be movies in the officer's bar for teens to watch.

Food and drinks will be provided throughout the day.

Opening ceremony begins at noon Dec. 31 at the fitness center.
Other activities are 12:30-2 p.m. at the fitness center, 1-4 p.m. at Stars & Strikes, 3-6 p.m. at the community center, 6-7 p.m. at the library, and 7-11 p.m. at Mission's End.

Community Activities

Community Center
687-5617

Shopping trip

Whiteman families and Airmen can holiday shop noon-7 p.m. Saturday at The Plaza in Kansas City, Mo. The cost is \$5 per person. Space is limited; sign up by today at the community center.

Adopt an Airman for Christmas

Host an Airman in your home Dec. 25 to share family fun, food and festivities. Participants must sign up by Dec. 20 at the community center. Call for more details.

Teen Center
687-5819

Computer mysteries

A free computer class takes place 3-5 p.m. Saturdays at the teen center. Participants explore the mysteries of computer equipment, creations and the marvels of technology. Call for more information.

Tournament night

Take part in a variety of card games, trivia and a skills tournament 7-10 p.m. today at the teen center. Participants will take home a prize. The snack bar will be open.

Acting on your values

Teens can watch a 30-minute video, and discuss holiday values and traditions 6-8 p.m. Wednesday. Holiday treats and hot chocolate will be available during this free event. Call for more information.

Holiday party

Celebrate the holidays 7-10 p.m. Dec. 17 at the teen center. Purchase a ticket in advance for \$2 per person or \$3 per couple. Tickets at the door cost \$3 per person. Unwrap new videos, music and games to add to the teen center library. Snacks will be provided. Call for more details.

Youth Center
687-5586

Reptilian night

Join a special guest from Warrensburg Pets and Ponds for a program about reptiles 6:30-9:30 p.m. today at the youth center. There is a \$5 fee for members and \$6.50 fee for non-members. Sign ups begin Monday. Call for more information.

Christmas party

The youth center's annual Christmas party takes place 6:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 17. Youth can take part in a variety of activities including cookie decorating, Christmas crafts, watching a movie, karaoke and more. The cost is \$6 for members, \$7.50 for non-members. Refreshments will be provided. Call the youth center to sign up or for more information.

B.R.I.D.G.E.

As part of our Building Responsible Individuals of

Deployed Guardians Everywhere Program, participants can make Christmas crafts, play games in the gym, board games in the lobby or watch a movie 3-5 p.m. Saturday. Refreshments will be provided. Call for more information about this free event.

Dinner and a movie

Participants can eat dinner and watch a movie 6-10 p.m. Dec. 18 in Warrensburg. Youth will watch a G- or PG-rated movie. The cost is \$7 for members and \$8 for non-members; transportation is included. Bring money for dinner and snacks. Call to sign up or for more information.

Skills Development Center
687-5691

Closed Dec. 19-Jan. 4

Basic crochet class

Take a basic crochet class 2-4 p.m. Saturday at the skills development center. The \$10 fee includes supplies. Call for more details or stop by to sign up.

Precious metal clay class

Take an introduction class on how to handle and make silver jewelry using the new PMC substance 2-4 p.m. Dec. 18. The \$25 fee includes supplies. Call for more details or stop by to sign up.

Roadside safety repair

A free roadside repair class takes place 2-3 p.m. Wednesday at the auto skills center. Participants will learn how to set up a safe environment to do repairs if their car breaks down on the side of the road. Sign up by Tuesday. Call the auto skills center at 687-5698 for more details.

Library
687-5614

Story time

Story time for 3 to 5 year olds begins at 10 a.m. Wednesdays in December. Stories will be presented and crafts will be made weekly. For more details, call the library or visit the Web site at <http://www.whitemanAFBlibrary.org>.

Veterinary Clinic
687-2667

Protect pets from winter's woes

The holiday season can be a hazardous time for pets. Keep your furry friends safe this holiday season by securing Christmas trees to the wall. Pine needles can puncture the pet's intestines if ingested. Call or visit the veterinary clinic for other winter tips and information.

Whiteman Inn
687-1844

Lodging holiday policy

During the holiday season, Team Whiteman members can make family reservations up to two weeks before their family arrives through Jan. 31 at Whiteman Inn. People can reserve three nights at a time, with the option to extend, based on availability. Call for more information.